



I was brought up in a Christian family, but didn't have my own personal relationship with God. It was like I used my family's faith as a substitute but deep down I always knew there was something missing. As I grew up, I put my identity in things I felt I could control: particularly how well I performed in school. Despite every good grade though, I was never really satisfied. When I came to university I knew it was make or break for my faith because I didn't have my parents around to encourage me to go to church. But even though I longed for God, I felt unworthy of His love and that I wasn't good enough. I even felt like He wouldn't want to know me.

Things began to change when I was invited by my friend to a Young Adults' event at Trent Vineyard. I remember being amazed by seeing lots of people my own age genuinely excited about Jesus. I was struck by how bold and confident they were in their faith. Shortly afterwards, I went to the Trent Vineyard Student Weekend Away. On the first evening we gathered to worship together and I remember having a powerful experience of God's presence. I felt God's peace filling my heart and had a sense of coming home to Him. As I looked around the room, I found myself in awe of all that God was

doing in people's lives. That weekend was a real turning point for me.

I went on to do the Alpha course which deepened my faith and joined a student small group where I found community and friends to do life with. Having Jesus in my life has been a game changer. He's brought so many incredible people into my life. They've encouraged and supported me when I've found myself struggling with the old lies I used to believe and they've lovingly held me accountable in my spiritual journey and spurred me on.

There are still times when I doubt myself and mess up, but I now remind myself of God's immeasurable grace and mercy. Instead of getting bogged down by guilt and shame, I choose to look to the cross and trust that I'm loved and covered by Jesus' incredible sacrifice for me. I joined Trent Vineyard in my first year of university and got baptised in my third which was the best decision ever. It hasn't always been easy, but I love Jesus and I'll continue to pursue Him and do my best to model His love and goodness to those around me.

Changing Lives